

VLR-4/6/71 NRHP-12/27/72

Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia	
COUNTY: Goochland	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Bolling Hall

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Bolling Hall

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1 mi. SE of Rt. 600, 1.9 mi. SW of intersection with Rt. 6.

CITY OR TOWN:  
(Goochland vic.)

STATE Virginia	CODE 51	COUNTY: Goochland	CODE 075
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Floyd D. Gottwald, Jr.; Bruce C. Gottwald

STREET AND NUMBER:  
3907 Sulgrave Road; 4502 Coventry Road

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond,	STATE: Virginia	CODE 51
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Goochland County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Goochland	STATE: Virginia	CODE 51
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: 1957     Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE: D. C.	CODE 11
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia	COUNTY: Goochland	ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

DESCRIPTION		k One	
CONDITION	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Terrible	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed	
	(Check One)	(Check One)	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE			

This rambling clapboarded farm dwelling sits placidly in the rolling hills of Goochland County overlooking the broad flat bottom lands of the upper James River. Surrounded by open fields and woodlands, Bolling Hall's setting has changed little since the days of its builder.

The appearance of the house, however, has evolved over the years to its present state. As originally constructed for William Bolling, the house was a two-story structure with a side hall plan. Its outside dimensions were 34 by 22 feet. By 1803 it had acquired an 18 by 18 foot one-story wing on the east end. An 1815 insurance policy of the Mutual Assurance Society of Richmond shows that by then the house had received a two-story addition on its west side, causing the main part of the house to appear almost symmetrical. The house was extensively remodeled sometime between 1845 and 1861 by Mary Bolling and her husband Richard Skipwith. During the remodeling the stair was removed from the hall and placed in a new projecting tower near the center of the house's north side. A one-story wing was put on the end, and the east wing was raised to two full stories. A conservatory was also added to the end of the east wing. The pitch of the roof was lowered and the cornice was changed.

In 1947 Bolling Hall was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Dwight A. Files who found the house in poor repair and being used as a barn. The Files carefully renovated the house and replaced the tower with a two-story porch with enclosed upper level. They also built a new stair in the original hall, removed the conservatory, and put a one-story wing in its place. Despite the many changes that have taken place in the house, it retains much of its early sash, early beaded clapboards, and sections of the original Flemish bond foundation.

The interior trim of Bolling Hall is quite fine but difficult to date. The main room in the oldest section of the house is handsomely outfitted with a paneled end wall, consisting of a chimney piece with molded shelf and architrave surround. The chimney piece is flanked by fluted pilasters and raised paneled doors. At the top of the wall is a wall-of-Troy cornice which surrounds the entire room. The room above the main room also has a paneled end wall, but it is treated in a more simple fashion. Because the end walls in the circa 1815 addition are virtually identical in style to those in the earlier section it is open to speculation if all the paneling dates from the same period, or if that in the addition was copied from the trim in the earlier section. In either case, all of the paneling is in the style of the eighteenth century rather than the nineteenth.

As late as 1879 Bolling Hall had retained its early brick kitchen, brick smokehouse, and a number of slave cabins. All of these early outbuildings have disappeared, however. On a hill immediately to the southwest of the house is the old walled Bolling graveyard.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century  
 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering          | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry             | losophy   | <u>History</u>                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention            | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                  | _____   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape            | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | Architecture                                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature           | itarian   | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                  | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation           | _____   |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Bolling Hall lands were first acquired in 1714 by John Bolling, Sr., son of the immigrant Robert Bolling, and a grandson of Jane Rolfe, daughter of Pocohontas. John Bolling Sr.'s grandson William inherited the land in 1757, and it was he who built the earliest portion of the present house around the third quarter of the eighteenth century. William Bolling married his first cousin, Mary Randolph, daughter of Richard Randolph of Curles. Two of the children of this union: William Albert (born 1797) and Mary (born 1809), were born deaf. Congenital deafness has appeared in the Bolling family before, more particularly in the children of William Bolling's uncle Thomas Bolling of Cobbs in Chesterfield County who had his children educated in Edinburgh under the direction of Thomas Briarwood, a noted pioneer educator of the deaf. Since William Bolling was unwilling to send his children abroad, he was pleased to learn in 1812 that John Briarwood, grandson of the famous teacher, announced his intentions of establishing a school for the deaf in Philadelphia. The school failed to develop so Bolling brought Briarwood to Bolling Hall where Briarwood taught not only Bolling's deaf children but his hearing children as well. Briarwood proved to be such a gifted teacher that parents of other deaf children requested that their children be allowed to come to Bolling Hall and learn under him. Bolling was unwilling to turn Bolling Hall into an institution but consented to convert the old house at Cobbs, which he inherited from his mother, into a formal school. Cobbs then became the first school for the education of the deaf in the United States.

Bolling Hall is thus significant for its early associations with the deaf education in this county. It is also the earliest remaining house connected with this important early Virginia family since Cobbs was destroyed by fire in 1829. Bolling Hall further survives as one of the few remaining colonial plantation houses of the upper James region; one that retains much of its original fabric, as well as its unspoiled rural setting.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Agee, Helene Barret, Facets of Goochland County's History, Richmond: The Dietz Press, Inc., 1962.  
 "Maryland Was at One Time Considered in Connection with the Location of the First School for the Deaf in the United States," The Maryland Bulletin, Frederick, Md., Vol. LXI, No. 3, (December 1940).  
 Palmer, Vera, "Goochland County Family Pioneered Teaching of Deaf in the United States," Special to the Times-Dispatch, Richmond, Va. (n.d.).  
 Unterberger, Betty Miller, "Notes and Documents," The Southern Journal of History, (November 1947).  
 Weeks, Elie, (Bolling Hall), unpublished manuscript, 1971.

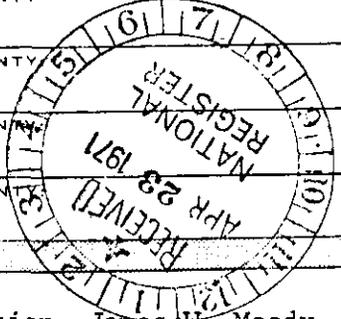
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	37° 41' 36"	77° 58' 13"			
NE	37° 41' 36"	77° 56' 32"			
SE	37° 39' 48"	77° 56' 32"			
SW	37° 39' 48"	77° 58' 13"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 900 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Staff, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, James W. Moody, Jr., Director  
 ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission DATE: March 31, 1971  
 STREET AND NUMBER: Room 1116, Ninth Street Office Building  
 CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name Edw. P. Alexander by JWA

Title Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

Date 4/6/71

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

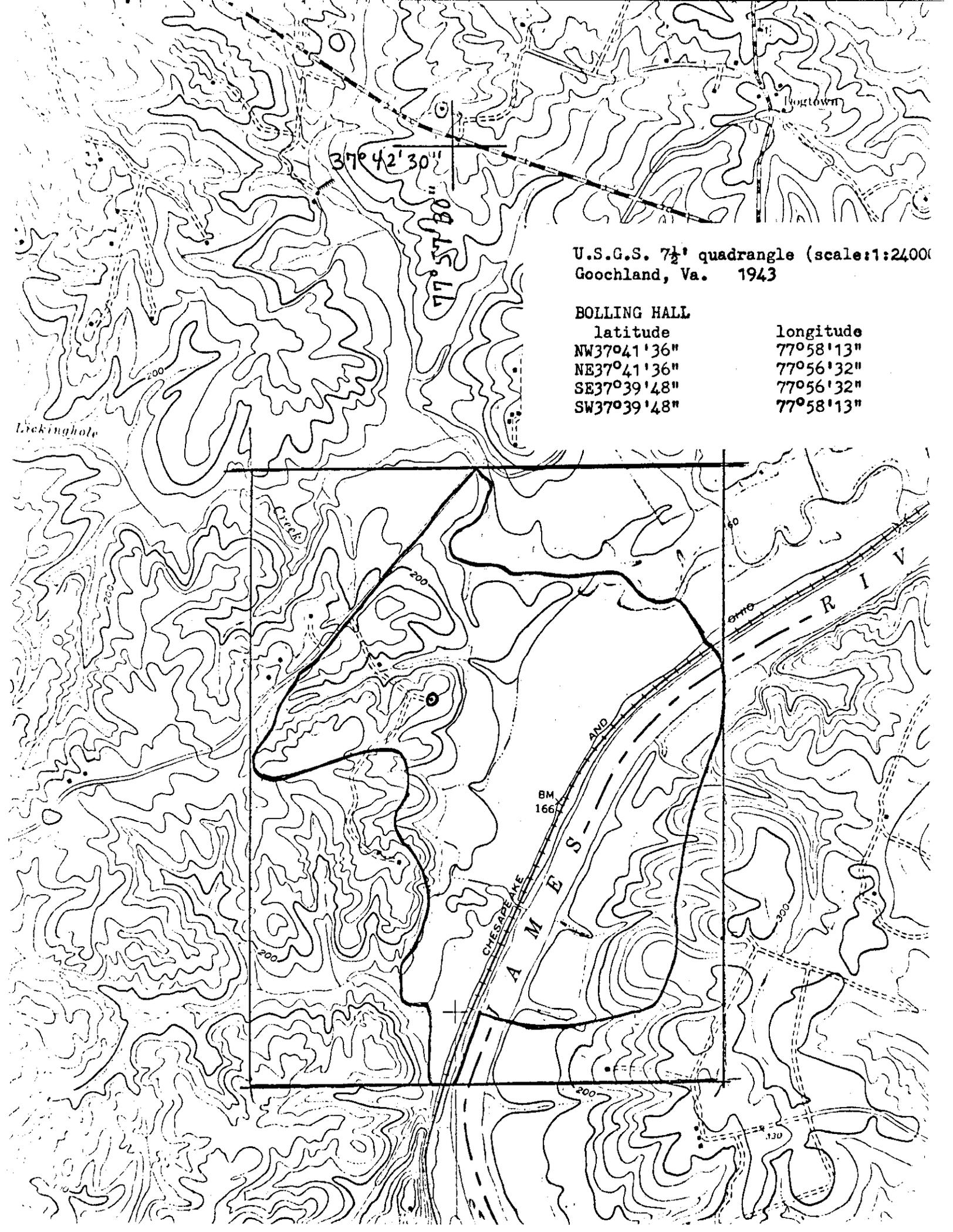
Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle (scale:1:24,000)  
 Goochland, Va. 1943

BOLLING HALL	
latitude	longitude
NW37°41'36"	77°58'13"
NE37°41'36"	77°56'32"
SE37°39'48"	77°56'32"
SW37°39'48"	77°58'13"

Lickinghole

BM  
166

CHESAPEAKE  
AND  
RIVER

RIVER

120